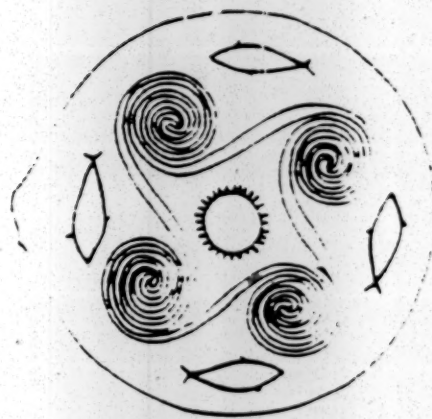


SPIRAL PATH



Volume 4

BELTANE

Issue 2

A BELTANE OF OUR OWN?

Beltane is fast approaching, and I realized as I was assembling the outline for this issue of the newsletter that Spiral has not planned anything special for this traditional Wiccan feast day. There are other groups whose festivities we can join. The Morris dancers will undoubtedly dance in the Beltane dawn at Inspiration Point in Tilden Park. No doubt NROOGD will also pull together a splendid celebration. Glenn Turner (415) 653-3244 should be able to provide some information just prior to the event. Many circles are having private celebrations. But wouldn't it be nice to have an all-Spiral Beltane? Or perhaps form a circle or circles whose focus are to put on public cross quarter festivals? We are blessed with one of the most diverse and tolerant social settings to be found...do we have the will, imagination, and daring to take advantage of this opportunity? If interested in exploring the possibilities, call me! Dianna Mari Bearchild (415) 881-5524.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

The Third Annual Spiral Summer Solstice celebration will take place at the BFUU Hall at 7 pm on June 24. Diana Paxson will hierophant. Anyone interested in helping plan and perform the ritual should call Diana at (415) 658-6033. We will be invoking the warm and golden power of the Sun, which affirms our identity and connection to each other. Circles

should bring their banners. Also, bring food to share.

SUMMER TOWN HALL MEETING

Marione and Jo have volunteered to facilitate a second Town Hall Meeting for Spiral June 24. Again, they need ideas and topics. I can think of several:

The issue of Spiral general funds being used to support open circles has come up at the last two board meetings, and the ensuing discussion produced the guiding principle that Spiral groups and activities should be self-supporting. How can open circles which need to rent space yet have many low income members meet this goal? How about the newsletter, which at present has received only a modest percentage of subscription payments compared to the number of issues on the mailing list? What about public relations activities, such as Whole Earth Festival? Will sliding scale donations meet our financial needs? Do we want to solicit special donations? Have fundraising events? What about some serious group reflection on Spiral financial planning and policy?

Another issue might be reflection and discussion of the transition from Diana Paxson heading Spiral to new leadership. What are the possible opportunities and pitfalls in this situation? How can we make the most of it? In what ways have we handled leadership transitions in circles? What has worked well? Why?

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A third issue might be a discussion of diversity of belief and activities of public service within Spiral. I have encountered several individuals within our community who seem to think that everyone must be as dedicated as they are to a particular (and often very commendable) pet service project, be it animal rights, the homeless, AIDS work, ecology, etc. etc. How do we handle our diversity of causes and opinions without implying negative judgement of those who differ from us?

Changes in the clergy training program presently being made by the conclave of consecrated priestesses might be a fourth topic.

If you have other topic suggestions, contact Jo and Marione (916) 442-6569 or bring ideas on the 24th of June. See you there. -DMB

OIL SPILL-ACTION?

Now that the much feared major oil spill has soiled the pristine northern Alaskan coastline, what are we pagans doing in response? Letterwriting campaigns? Rituals? Other actions? Planning and advocating ways to avoid a repeat? Using this example to help fight for the Northern California Ocean Sanctuary? I want to take action, and would be interested in networking with others of like mind. Dianna Mari Bearchild (415) 881-5524

ELECTIONS

Diana Paxson has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Fellowship of the Spiral Path as well as President of the Board for the past three years, since the Center for Non-Traditional Religion was transformed into the Fellowship of the Spiral Path. Diana was the main force moving to save the infant organization from a premature collapse at that time, volunteering to head it for three years, creating many of our current standard operating procedures, and giving

generously of her spacious home as a meeting site for many of Spiral's activities. Her term in office is now up, and Spiral is in need of a new Board Member. Either the newly elected Board Member or one of the two existing ones will need to be chosen as President of the Board.

At the March 19th board meeting, all affiliated circles were urged to discuss possible nominations and to be sure to have a delegate bring their vote to the next board meeting, June 25th. Qualifications for board candidacy agreed on at the board meeting were: (1) Member of a Spiral affiliated Circle for at least a year and a day (2) Will faithfully attend the quarterly board meetings. (3) At least 21 years old (4) Leadership qualities (5) A sense of responsibility to Spiral as a whole (6) Able and willing to make a three year commitment to the work of the board (7) Consistent spiritual commitment. In addition, the individual chosen as board President should also have the following qualifications: (1) Able to facilitate meetings (2) Tact and a sense of humor (3) Personal contact with as many Spiral groups as possible (4) Able and willing to be a public representative of Spiral. Since the present board members who will be staying on - - Robbie and Emily - - are from the East Bay and Sacramento, it might be a good idea for us to seriously consider nominations from the South Bay for the open seat on the Board. May the election process, candidates and newly forming board be blessed.

CONSECRATION

On March 12, Spiral consecrated two new priestesses, Ann Newkirk Niven and Nancy Gagnon (Lupa). They had completed the required two years of training with Collegium, the association of Spiral priestesses and trainees, and were declared ready by their guides. The ceremony was elegant, and Spiral and Neopaganism came across to the (continued on page 3)

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non-pagan guests as a mature and powerful spiritual movement. Several of the guests were affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, a major center for interdenominational and interfaith religious studies. They were inspired and impressed by their experience with us. Now for a thank you penned by Lupa and heartily seconded by Ann:

I'd like to thank all of you in the Spiral Community who helped to make the Consecration a very powerful and moving experience: Diana, who put pen to paper calling the Goddess into our lives again; Gaia's Voice, who added their beautiful music; the "Unsung Heras" who stayed to clean up--and all of you who gave blessings, cards and gifts. I'm very excited about what the Goddess and Spiral have in store for me. The Wheel turns and there are more rituals to be done, more ways to discover Her power and beauty. To me, Consecration is a whole new beginning, ripe with potential. Magic is afoot! Blessed be, Nancy/Lupa

RITUAL REVIEWS

W. E. T. Wombat was WET this year. For the first time, the prefix Western Esoteric Tradition was added to the name of our Discordian April 1st celebration, and the Lady under the guise of Eris responded with an April Fool's Day trick: She dumped rain upon the celebrants who had to caravan from Tilden Park to Sarah's to avoid having more than our spirits dampened by the downpour. It's fortunate that we were close in and had the option of moving indoors. If we'd camped out as originally planned, we would have been unhappy campers! Perhaps if we have a Spiral campout it should be in late summer or early fall... anyone interested in planning one?

Darkmoon lived up to her reputation as the mother circle and heavy of Spiral, producing one of the best rituals I have

ever had the privilege of attending on the 22nd of March. The Persephone/Demeter ritual crafted by Barbara and Diana Paxson used language elegantly, balanced planned/structured and free-flowing forms, and showed an extraordinary grasp of the interconnections between modern women's psychological/spiritual dilemmas and the wealth of mythic and wiccan resources at our disposal. It merits inclusion in a "ritual cookbook" of Spiral's best, and could easily change its focus to be suitable in any setting, from a small and intimate women's circle to a large public women's mysteries ritual. Good work!

I'm sure Robbie and I aren't the only folks who have been excited or impressed by a great ritual since last issue... Since twice in Spiral makes a tradition, we now have a "Ritual Review" column. Please let us know if you want to include a ritual you have attended in upcoming issues of Spiral Path. -DMB

NEW SPIRAL AFFILIATED GROUPS

ARCANA: Based on the successful Tarot Symposium in the East Bay, a new open mixed circle using the Major Arcana of the Tarot for meditation and growth will be starting in Sacramento. the first meeting will be held June 2nd. Contact Emily (916) 442-8079.

VOODOO WORKSHOPS: After experiencing the unique power of African/Caribbean religion in several rituals led by Emily, there is a growing interest in these traditions. Kathleen and Ursula are coordinating a series of workshops in their home. The first will be Monday, May 8. If you wish to attend, or can lead a session, contact them at (707) 447-5151.

FEMINIST CIRCLE(S): Interested in being part of a circle whose focus is to weave together feminist philosophy and the eclectic practice of the Craft? (continued on page 4)

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Contact me, Dianna Mari Bearchild, at
(415) 881-5524.

THE NEWSLETTER - - EDITOR'S REPORT

With this issue, Robbie and I will have served as newsletter editors for a year's worth of issues. Our initial goals, as we defined them in consultation with the board of directors and circle leaders, are accomplished. The Path has changed from a personal letter from Diana Paxson to an organizational format, grouping information into articles and features. We have provided a means of informing the Spiral community of celebrations, organizational decisions, new activities and circles. We have provided a public forum for exchange of ideas and kept the personal touch by including short personal notes and ads. We have begun the process of changing over from circle subscriptions to individual subscriptions.

Although we were originally appointed by Diana Paxson and our tenure was indefinite, I believe that the position of newsletter editor should rotate, just as circle leader and Spiral board positions do. That way, we avoid drifting into stagnation or power games, more of us develop new skills useful to the organization, and Spiral is stronger for having more active involved members. It seems to us that a term of one year, renewable once consecutively, would be appropriate. We think the board, with the advice of the circle leaders, should appoint the co-editors, and that preferably they should not concurrently be board members or circle leaders. We would like to apply for a renewal appointment for the next year but also are willing to turn the Spiral Path over to new editorship should there be others champing at the bit for an opportunity to take on this challenging and rewarding service. Please give feedback on these ideas to your circle leader or the Spiral board members.

Also, the best way that you can show your thanks and support for all the hard work that Robbie and I have put into the newsletter is by paying for your individual subscription, and perhaps including an extra donation if you are financially able to. As yet, the newsletter has not met the recently enunciated Spiral fiscal goal of paying its own way, and costs will increase due to the extra double page we are adding. Please send \$5.00 and a check or money order payable to: The Fellowship of the Spiral Path c/o Spiral News, 3281 Kelly St. Hayward, Ca. 94541. -DMB

PERSONAL NOTES

Ann Newkirk Niven and her husband Alan are the proud parents of a boy, Arthur O'dell, born 2am on April 1st. Best wishes to the new family!

April Stockley has 3 wonderful neutered adult male cats who need new homes, preferably with practitioners of the Craft who can appreciate a witch's familiar. She would prefer them all to go to one new home, if possible. (415) 939-2320.

EXTRA-SPIRAL EVENTS/RESOURCES

WHOLE EARTH FESTIVAL May 12-14 at UC Davis. (OOPSS! Our first goof up! NOT the 4-5 of May. Otherwise, see last issue for details) Contact Emily (916) 442-8079.

ANCIENT WAYS FESTIVAL May 19-21 at Harbin Hot Springs. Contact Glenn at Ancient Ways store (415) 653-3244 for details on attending, or to offer volunteer help in running the event.

ELDERFLOWER WOMAN SPIRIT
FESTIVAL June 9-11 Mendocino
Woodlands. A new women's spirituality festival. Spiral women are planning ritual and workshop activities for this, and it is a great opportunity to
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network and celebrate our sisterhood!
Contact Elderflower, PO Box 31627, San
Francisco, Ca. 94131 or call (415) 285-
5669.

JANET CARTER Holds ongoing
workshops on astrology. Lupa
recommends highly. Call (415) 821-
7145.

MARIJA GIMBUTAS Slide presentation
on the Great Goddess in Europe.
California Institute of Integral Studies,
SF. Call (415) 753-6100.

RESPONSES TO RECYCLING PIECE

Dear Diane & Robbie: Thanks for
taking on the job of editors. About
Diana's article in the Feb. issue: She
asks what we can do, and one
suggestion I have is support the current
interest in recycling, which is a way of
healing the Earth. The city of
Berkeley is promoting an additional
activity of Precycling. I am enclosing
a copy of their free handout on the
subject. They gave our Ecology group
350 handouts to mail out in our
Newsletter. Sincerely, Kate, Solitary,
Martinez, CA. [The handout also ran
in at least two Berkeley newspapers;
for Precycling information, call 644-
8631, then contact your county and city
government and demand they offer us
the same services. Thanks, Kate, for
the information and for your dedication
and action on this issue. RW]

Things You Can Do about Junk Mail

It's easy to get more mail than you
want these days, and even if your city
includes "miscellaneous paper" as a
recycling category, that doesn't include
the plastic window of window envelopes
and magazines and catalogues printed
on slick paper. And no matter how
simple your name, there will probably
be at least three variant spellings of it
floating around in several companies'
computers.

If you go to the Post Office and ask
what you can do about this, they will
give you the address of the Mail
Preference Service, Direct Mail
Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd
Street, New York, NY 10017, which will
send you a name removal form. After
you fill this out and return it to them,
they will put your name and address (at
least the version you gave them) on a
list provided to their participating
member companies. But not everyone
sending you junk mail is a participating
member of the DMMA.

I started my battle against junk mail by
cutting out the plastic window and
taking any other non-recyclable portion
of a mailing (slick paper, decals,
tokens, etc.) and returning it in the
post paid envelope some mailers
provide, accompanied by a note which
says, "Enclosed is the portion of your
mailing which my city's recycling
program won't take. You produced this
garbage, you can dispose of it."

For phase two I made up a sheet that
says:

Subject: Request for Removal from
Mailing List

Our household's New Year's
resolution for 1989 was to cut down
on our portion of the 'junk mail'
problem. The enclosed label is
either a duplicate mailing or
something nobody in our household
reads. Please do your bit for the
planet's ecology and remove this
name and address from your mailing
list. Thank you.

Below that I place the mailing label
from the mailing, then I fold the paper
in thirds, put the mailer's address on
the outside, staple it, put a stamp on
it, and mail it. I hope that this
request will be honored, but, as far as
I know, the only class of item you can
legally stop anyone from mailing to you
is pornography. (The Post Office has a
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kit for this, but they don't consider the Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue obscene. Presumably they have some sort of definition of obscenity, but I don't know what it is.)

Then I dug out our copy of the USPS Domestic Mail Manual. Section 153.11 says:

(a) The addressee may control delivery of his mail. . . . (b) The addressee may refuse to accept a piece of mail at the time it is offered for delivery. (c) After delivery, an addressee may mark a piece of mail "REFUSED" and return it, unopened, except:

The exceptions are Registered, insured, certified, COD, and responses to the addressee's sales promotion, etc.

I called the main Post Office in Oakland and asked what they did with mail if the addressee wrote "REFUSED" on it, and the lady I spoke with said they returned it to the sender. I said, "Even if it's something like a catalogue and it doesn't say 'return postage guaranteed'?", and she said yes, as long as it has a return address, it gets returned. I told her she'd made my day. I figure that after the sender has had to pay return postage on his junk a few times, he may get the message. Of course, if the Postal Service is absorbing the return costs, a lot of us may have to do this to get the message across, but I think it's worth a try.

And for environmental groups like Greenpeace that send mailings that can't be completely recycled, I have a special letter:

Subject: Request for Removal from Mailing List

I have previously supported your organization in the belief that you cared about the environment we are living in. Today I received a

mailing which demonstrated how obviously mistaken this belief was.

The mailing came in an envelope with a plastic window and contained slick colored paper, neither of which my city's recycling program will take. The rest of your mailing has been recycled, but I am returning the enclosed to you for proper disposal. You produced this garbage, you can take care of it.

Kindly remove my name from your mailing list at once, for I assure you that you will never get another penny from me; any future mail you send me will simply add to the planet's pollution problem. Sincerely,

I sent a version of that to Californians Against Waste a couple of months ago. Yesterday I got another mailing from them, but at least all of it could be recycled. I count it as progress.

- Elisabeth Waters
(Thanks, Elisabeth. Your research is thorough, your suggestions excellent. We'll forward your ideas to other publications who may be interested in reprinting your article. DMB)

The SPIRAL PATH is the official publication of The Fellowship of the Spiral Path, an association of neo-pagan circles, with member circles extending from the South San Francisco Bay area through the East Bay area to the Sacramento area. The newsletter provides a calendar of Spiral events, announcements of special classes, events or projects and an opportunity for individual circles and the governing board of the organization to communicate with each other.

Informational items will not have by-lines. Items expressing personal opinion will have by-lines, and are not intended to express the official opinion either of the newsletter or of Spiral as a whole, but to encourage thought and debate on items of interest and importance to us all.

Pagan-appropriate clip art, short feature articles and quarterly scheduling information should be submitted to Spiral News c/o Diane and Robbie, 3281 Kelly Street, Hayward, CA 94541, (415) 881-5524. The following is the yearly cycle of scheduling and submission deadlines:

ISSUE	COVERING	DEADLINE
Feb 1, Brigid	Feb to Apr	Jan 1
May 1, Beltane	May to Jul	Apr 1
Aug 1, Lamas	Aug to Oct	Jul 1
Nov 1, Samhain	Nov to Jan	Oct 1

SPIRAL CALENDAR

All Spiral and Extra Spiral events: plain type, all capitals.
 East Bay circles: plain type, first letter capitalized.
 Sacramento circles: *italic type*, first letter capitalized.
 South Bay circles: *italic type*, all capitals.
 All events are at 7:30 pm unless otherwise listed.

MAY

2	Mystery Circle	TBA	TBA	BFUU
2	Brigid's Fire	Beltane	Laurie	Vacaville
3	Darkmoon	Beltane	Barbara	Barbara's
6	COLLEGIUM	THEOLOGY		GREYHAVEN, 2 PM
8	Voodoo	Legba & Ayizan	Kathleen	Vacaville & Ursula
9	Old Religion	Magical Tools		BFUU
11	Nightspell			Emily's
12	MOONTYDE	ANNUNCIATION FOR DIANA M.	TBA	7:30
12	Tarot	The Tower		Charline's
12	Brigid's Fire	Melkat ha Shabbat		Leigh Ann's
13-5		WHOLE EARTH FESTIVAL		UC DAVIS
16	E.Bay Drumming			John's
17	Darkmoon	Connie's Baby Ritual		Connie's
18	Serpent's Egg			Charline's
19	Sisters Workcircle	Chant Jam		TBA
19	LUNACIRCA	TBA		TBA
19	Darkmoon for those not at Harbin			Barbara's
19-21		ANCIENT WAYS FESTIVAL		HARBIN SPRINGS
23	Equinox Circle	Charline & Lorenzo		TBA
25	Nightspell			Emily's
26	MOONTYDE	DREAM CIRCLE		TBA 7:30
28	E.Bay Liturgy - Collegium			BFUU
29	Sisters Ritual	3rd birthday - potluck	TBA	4 pm
31	Brigid's Fire	Ritual Magic	Kathleen	Vacaville Members only!

JUNE

2	Darkmoon	TBA		TBA
2	Arcana			Emily's
6	Mystery Circle			BFUU
8	Nightspell			Emily's
9	MOONTYDE	MAGIC REVIEW		TBA
8	Brigid's Fire	Come as Your Favorite Goddess		Laurie's
9	Tarot	The Star		Charline's
10-12		ELDERFLOWER FESTIVAL		MENDO WDLNDS
13	Old Religion			BFUU
15	Serpent's Egg			Charline's
17	Sisters - Ladies' Tea for Aphrodite -			McKinley Pk Rose Gdn, 4
	Come in your feminine finery and bring			drink or finger food.
19	Darkmoon	TBA		TBA
20	E.Bay Drumming			John's

22	Nightspell		Emily's
24	ALL-SPIRAL TOWN HALL MEETING		BFUU, 10 AM
24	ALL-SPIRAL SUMMER SOLSTICE		BFUU, 7 PM
25	ALL-SPIRAL BOARD MEETING		GREYHAVEN, 2 PM
25	E.Bay Liturgy - Darkmoon		TBA
25	MOONTYDE	SOLSTICE	THE RANCH, 1 PM
26	Brigid's Fire	Scheduling & Ritual Feast	Anyas
		Bring celebratory food!	
27	Equinox Circle	Neal & Diana	TBA

JULY

4	Mystery Circle		BFUU
5	Darkmoon	TBA	TBA
7	Arcana		Emily's
7	MOONTYDE	CRYSTAL HEALING	TBA, 7:30 PM
8	COLLEGIUM	PERSONAL SPIRITUALITY	GREYHAVEN, 2 PM
10	Brigid's Fire	The Mother	Anyas
11	Old Religion		BFUU
13	Nightspell		Emily's
14	Tarot	The Moon	Charline's
17	Darkmoon	TBA	TBA
18	E.Bay Drumming		John's
20	Serpent's Egg		Charline's
21	MOONTYDE	POWER OF MYTH VIDEO NIGHT	TBA, 7:30 PM
25	Equinox Circle	TBA	TBA
25	Brigid's Fire	Diane/Robbie	Diane's
27	Nightspell		Emily's
30	Liturgy - Brigid's Fire		BFUU

LIST OF SPIRAL-AFFILIATED GROUPS

EAST BAY

Darkmoon Circle (closed, women), Annie Agard, 415-527-8567
 Tarot symposium (mixed), Charline Palmtag, 415-638-7669
 Serpent's Egg (women), Charline Palmtag, 415-638-7669
 Equinox Circle (closed, mixed), Cedar Sposato, 415-848-5076
 Mystery Circle (mixed), Dr. Dirt, 415-848-1994
 Brigid's Fire (women), Madelaine, 415-845-6816
 Arktoi (girls 10-15), Gretchen Pfeil, 415-674-1294
 Changers Changing, Annie Agard, 415-527-8567
 (an open circle for women processing change)
 Rune Circle (mixed), Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033
 Feminist Circle, Diana Mari Bearchild, 415-881-5524
 Ethics Discussion Group (mixed), Diana Mari Bearchild, 415-881-5524
 Intro. to Old Religion class, Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033
 Liturgy of the Lady, Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033

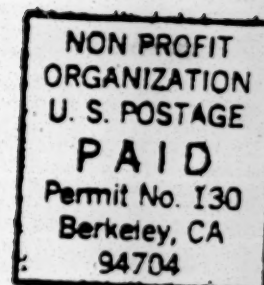
SACRAMENTO

Arcana (mixed), Emily Garlick, 916-442-8079
 Pagana Cabal (closed, mixed), Emily Garlick, 916-442-8079
 Sisters of the Circle (closed, women), Phoenix, 916-756-1314
 Crossroads (teaching circle), Yael 916-443-7876 or Alpha 991-1421
 Walking Softly on the Earth (teaching circle), Nadine, 916-452-2445
 Earthspirit (closed after 2nd mtg, mixed), Nadine, 916-452-2445
 Voodoo Workshop (mixed), Kathleen & Ursula, 707-447-5151

SOUTH BAY

MOONTYDE CIRCLE (women), Santa Cruz, Maia, 408-475-2678
 LUNACIRCA (women), San Jose, Shari Storm, chancellor, 408-739-9198
 or Beth McWilliams, secretary, (415) 846-6406

Fellowship of the Spiral Path
P. O. Box 5521
Berkeley, CA 94705



Margot Adler
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New York NY 10025

Expires: Networking

MS